the fact, that the Executive of the United States

But, sir, the President insists that we shall

But, sir, the President insists that we shall investigate the case, and pronounce our judgments in regard to its merits. That has been done. It is now some six years since this claim was presented to the consideration of this body. The usual bill making appropriations for the

civil and diplomatic expenses of Government, passed this Heuse, and was sent to the Senate. That body amended it by ting an appropriation of \$50,000 to intermfy these slave

dealers. It came back to this hall, thus amend-

ed, for our concurrence.

My venerable and ever-lamented friend. John

My venerable and ever-lamented friend, John Quincy Adams, was then just lingering upon the confinee of life; he was pale and trembling under the weight of nearly four score years; his voice was so weak that he was able to make himself heard at the distance of only a

few yards; he had ceased to mingle in the de-bates of this hall; he had, however, been fa-miliar with all the details of this pretended

claim, and when he saw his country about to

be disgraced by contributing the public funds to the payment of these Spanish slave dealers, for the failure of their anticipated speculations

for the failure of their anticipated speculations in human flesh, his spirit was stirred within him, and he once more, and for the last time, rose in defence of his country's honor, in defence of humanity. Members from the distant parts of the hall left their seats and gath-

ered around him, in order to catch the last words of the venerable statesman. The re-porters, unable to hear him, rushed into the

eats of members, and crowded near, to give to

the country as much as possible of the last speech of the greatest man then living. He spoke briefly, but continued his remarks until his physical system appeared to sink under the

The vote was taken, and I think there were

forever have set the matter at rest. This ap

tives, is of itself disrespectful to the Legisla ture of the nation. I project against it. His

predecessor was dissatisfied with the decision of the Judiciary, and appealed to Congress The appeal was heard in this hall, and dis-

missed by an almost unanimous vote; and now the President desires us to reverse that decision of our own body. Are the members

of the present House of Representatives more competent than those who then occupied their

scats? Are we more intelligent, more honest more patriotic, or more familiar with the facts

The Pre-ident appears not to have possesse

the proper degrees of information on this sub-ject. I do not believe that he or his Cabinet

can have examined it with that care or atten-tion which the Courts bestowed upon it. I say this for the reason that he states in his message,

that "this claim is believed to rest on the

obligations imposed by our existing treaty with Spain." In what treaty? In what article of any

treaty? The report of a former committee of

articles of our treaty with Spain, of 1795, im-posed upon us that duty. The committee did not know in which article nor in which clause

of either article such obligation could be

found. The Supreme Court, however, as have already remarked, looked very carefully

through that treaty, and all other treatics be tween Spain and the United States, and upor

solemn consideration declared that no such duty existed under that or any other treaty

That Court, sir, was composed of nine able Judges, learned in the law; they had listened

to the most eminent counsel of the United States, and, after full deliberation, were clearly

of opinion that no such obligation existed un-der any treaty. And, sir, I have more confi-dence in the opinion of those judges, in relation to our treaty stipulations, than I have in the

opision of the President.
Well, sir, the President insists that we are

ound by treaty to pay for the bodies of these

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, that when he draws up his report, I hope he will inform

us of the article, the section, and clause, in

which he finds such obligation! I hope th

Mr. BAYLY. I shall be very likely to do that

Mr. Grodings. I take the gentleman at his cord, and will hold him to his promise.

The 9th article of our treaty of 1795 stipu

lates, that "when a ship and merchandise of either nation shall be rescued out of the hands of pirates or robbers, it shall be delivered over

the owner, on sufficient proof." Now, the

ourt said, in order to bring the law within

that article, it must be shown that the negroes were "merchandise," and had been rescued out

of the hands of pirates or robbers; neither of

proved, and was admitted by the attorney for the United States upon the record, that the

pegroes were Africans recently imported, and

daveholding language could not be regarded

Secondly, that being freemen, and not slaves

erefore freemen, and not slaves; and even in

gentleman will be specific on this point.

to say to the Chairman

than they were?

peal of the President from that decis

MY SUMMER WITH DR. SINGLETARY.

CHAP. VI. HE SKIPPER'S STORY.

Well, what's the news below?" asked the tor, of his housekeeper, as she came home a gossipping visit to the landing, one after-... "What new piece of scandal is afloat

Watson, tartly. "Mrs. Nuand never so much as left a tine; and she should like to ant Brown's wife would and minded her, and let her borough wort tea, and put a pit of her stomach." to would be the best thing for

or, with a wicked grimace Let her look out for herself the gets the rheumatism; Pil m head to heel. But what else

Polly Pike is at the landing." Labrador ! The one Tom Os-

I met Tom down street." aid the Doctor, with emphasi "P or Widow Osborne's prayers are answered, and she will see her son before she dies."

And precious little good will it do her," said

the housekeeper. "There's not a more drunk-"It's ton true," responded the Doctor; "but he's her only son, and you know, Mrs. Watson, the heart of a mother."

The widow's hard face softened-a tender w passed over it-the memory of some eavement melted her; and as she pass o the house, I saw her put her checked

son to her eyes. Se this time, Skipper Evans, who had been rking his way up street for some min-

had reached the gate. "Look here," said he, "here's a letter that nts, that you gave over for a dead man

roun the other world, of course," said the o, not exectly, though it's from Labrador, is about the last place the Lord made, i

What from Dick Wilson?" " mid the Skipper.

Alive and kicking! I tell you what, Docmer be; but if you want to set a felke a fishing trip to Labrador, specialbothering himself with studying and such like. There's nothing rs, hard bunks, and sea fog, to one one out of him. Now this chap, per here gave me a poke in the ribs, designation,) "if I could have him to beyond sunset, for two or three could come back as hearty as a Bay

him that I would like to try the ent with him as skipper, I begged experiment with him as skipper, I begged to know the history of the case he had spo-

The old fisherman smiled complacently, hitch estulopps, took a seat beside us, and tracing a jack knife from one pocket and a hand of tobacco from the other, and de-liberately supplying himself with a fresh quid, he mentions I, applogetically, that he supposed the Doctor had heard it all before.

twenty times," said the Doctor; "but ind, it's a good story yet. Go shead

y p see," said the Skipper, "thi ass down bere from Hannover a spring, as lean as a shad in doghad got into brains. So the Dochelp him with his poticary stuff, m with her herbs, but all did last somebody advised him to ake him aboard my schooner. I right in the way, and poor com est for all his Greek and Latin ral thing, I've noticed that your s swap away their common sense I, he brought his books with to them so close that I was have to slide him off the plank half way to Labrador. So I just my that it wouldn't do, and that he shouldn't do it aboard my l'es e'en jest a mind,' says I, 'to soka overhoard. A fishing-vessel's 'em; they'll spoil all our luck. making a Jonah of yourself down bunk, but get upon deck, and let de and the islands and the fogshes and the birds for natur. He nor give bearsays, but is a

no use talking. There he'd lay at to drag him on deck to snuf lowsomever, one day—it was the whole season—after we left the were running down the Gut

ever I saw a chap wonder-struck, he was. Right | kind friends here; they will do all they can for looked like a great snow-bank on its southern slope; while the air was full overhead, and all ut, of what seemed a heavy fall of snow. The day was blazing hot, and there wasn't a cloud to be seen. 'What in the world, Skipper, does this mean?' says he. 'We're sailing right into a snow storm, in dog-days and in a clear sky!' By this time we had got near enough to hear a great rushing noise in the air, every

moment growing louder and louder.

"'It's only a storm of gannets,' says I.

"'Sure enough!' says he, 'but I wouldn't
have believed it possible.'

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"When we got fairly off against the island fired a gun at it, and such a fluttering and screaming you can't imagine. The great snow banks shook, trembled, loosened, and became all alive, whirling away into the air like drifts in a nor'wester. Millions of birds went up, wheeling and zigzagging about, their white bodies and black-tipped wings crossing and re crossing, and mixing together into a thick gray-ish-white haze above us.

"'You're right, Skipper,' says Wilson oe, "Nature is better than books.'

"And from that time he was on much as his health would allow of, and took a deal of notice of everything new and uncom mon. But, for all that, the poor fellow was so sick and pale and peaking, that we all thought we should have to heave him overboard son day, or bury him in Labrador moss."

"But he didn't die after all, did he?" said "Die, no!" oried the Skipper, "not he!" "And so your fishing voyage really cured

"I can't say as it did, exactly," returned the Skipper, shifting his quid from one cheek to the r, with a sly wink at the Doctor. "The fact is, after the doctors and the old herb women had given him up at home, he got oured by a little black-eyed French girl on the Labra-

"A very agreeable prescription, no doubt, quoth the Doctor, turning to me. "How d

"It doesn't become the patient to choose hi own nostrums," said I, laughing. "But I wonder, Doetor, that you haven't long ago tested the value of this by an experiment upon your-

"Physicians are proverbially shy of their own medicines," said he. "Well, you see," continued the Skipper, "

had a rough run down the Labrador shore. rain-storms and fogs so thick you could out em up into junks with your jack-knife. At last, we reached a small fishing station away down where the sun doesn't sleep in summer, but just takes a bit of a nap at midnight. Here Wilson went ashore, more dead than alive, and found comfortable lodgings with a little, dingy, French oil merchant, who had a snug, warm house, and a garden patch, where he raised a and a tolerable field of grass which kept his two cows alive through the winter. The country all about was dismal enough; as far as you could see, there was nothing but moss and rocks and hare hills and ponds of shallow water, with now and then a patch of stunted firs. But it doubtless looked pleasant to our poor sick passenger, who for some days had been longing for land. The Frenchman gave him a neat little room, looking out on the harbor, all alive with fishermen, and Indians hunting seals; and, to my notion, no place is very dul where you can see the salt-water and the ships at anchor on it, or scudding over it with sails set in a stiff breeze, and where you can watch its changes of lights and colors in fair and foul weather, morning and night. The family was made up of the Frenchman, his wife, and his daughter, a little witch of a girl, with bright, black eyes, lighting up her brown, good-natur ed face like lamps in a binnacle. They all took a mighty liking to young Wilson, and were ready to do anything for him. He was soon able to walk about, and we used to see him with the Frenchman's daughter strolling along the shore and among the mosses, talking with her in her own language. Many and many a time, as we sat in our boats under the rocks, we could hear her merry laugh ringing

"We staid at the station about three week and when we got ready to sail I called at the Frenchman's to let Wilson know when to some aboard. He really seemed sorry to leave for the two old people urged him remain with them, and poor little Lucille wouldn't hear a word of his going. She said he would be sick and die on board the vessel, but that if he staid with them he would soon be well and strong; that they should have plenty of milk and eggs for him the winter; and he should ride in the dog-sledge with her; and she would take care of him as if he was her brother. She hid his cap and great-coat, and what with crying and colding and coazing, she fairly carried he

"'You see I'm a prisoner,' says he, 'they

" Well,' says. I, 'you don't seem to troubled about it. I tell you what, young man,' says I, 'it's mighty pretty now to stroll round here, and pick mosses and hunt bird's comes, and everything freezes up stiff and dead except white bears and logens, and there's no daylight left to speak of, and you'll be sick enough of your choice. You won't live the winter out; and it's an awful place to die in where the ground freezes so hard that they

" Lucille says, says he, 'that God is as near us in the winter as the summer. The fact is, Skipper, I've no nearer relative left in the States than a married brother, who thinks more of his family and business than of me; and if it saying of Mr. Norris. If it be true, Mr. Atheris God's will that I shall die, I may as well ton was an Atheist, and died as the fool dieth; the northeast, and if wait His call here as anywhere. I have found and the Union, in sanctioning the continent as

me; and for the rest, I trust Provid

"Lucille begged that I would let him stay, for she said God would hear her prayers, and he would get well. I told her I wouldn't arge him any more; for if I was as young as he was, and had such a pretty nurse to take care of me, I should be willing to winter at the North Pole. Wilson gave me a letter for his brother and we shook hands, and I left him. When we were getting under weigh, he and Lucille stood on the landing-place, and I hailed him for the last time, and made signs of sending the boat for him. The little French girl understood me; she shook her head, and pointed to her father's house, and then they both tur back, now and then stopping to wave their handkerchiefs to us. I felt sorry to leave him there; but for the life of me I couldn't blame

"I'm sure I don't," said the Doctor."

"Well, next year I wa at Nitisquam har bor, and, although I was doing pretty well in the way of fishing, I couldn't feel easy without running away north to Brador, to see what had become of my sick passenger. It was rather early in the season, and there was ice still in the harbor; but we managed to work in at last; when, who should I see on shore but young Wilson, so stout and hearty that I should sarcely have known him. He took me up to his lodgings, and told me that he had never spent a happier winter; that he was well and strong, and could fish and hunt like a native; that he was now a partner with the Frenchman in trade, and only waited the coming of the pricet from the Magdalenes, on his yearly visit to the settlements, to marry his daughter Lucille was as pretty, merry, and happy, as ever, and the old Frenchman and his wife seemed to leve Wilson as if he was their son. I've never seen him since; but he now writes me that he is married, and has prospered in health and property, and thinks Labrador would be the finest country in the world, if it only had heavy timber trees."

"One cannot but admire," said the Doctor that wise and beneficent ordination of Providence, whereby the spirit of man asserts its power over circumstances, moulding the rough forms of matter to its fine ideal, bringing harmony out of discord, coloring, warming, and lighting up everything within the circle of its horizon. A living heart carries with it, under every parallel of latitude, the warmth and light of the tropics. It plants its Eden in the wilderness and solitary place, and sows with flowers the gray desolation of rocks and mosses Wherever love goes, there springs the true heart's ease, rooting itself even in the Polar ices. To the young invalid of the Skipper's Story, the dreary waste of what Moore calls,

"The dismal shore

Of cold and pitiless Labrador," looked beautiful and inviting, for he saw it softened and irradiated in an atmosphere of were but the setting and background of the sweetest picture in the gallery of life. Apart from this, however, in Labrador, as in every conceivable locality, the evils of soil and cli mate have their compensations and alleviations.
The long nights of winter are brilliant with moonlight, and the changing colors of the Northern lights are reflected on the snow. The summer of Labrador has a beauty of its own far unlike that of more genial climates, but which its inhabitants would not forego for the warm life and lavish luxuriance of tropical landscapes. The dwarf fir-trees throw from the ends of their branches yellow tufts of stamina, like small lamps decorating green pyra nids, for the festival of spring; and if green grass is in a great measure wanting, its place s supplied by delicate mosses, of the most brilliant colors. The truth is, every season and climate has its peculiar beauties and comforts the footprints of the good and merciful God are found everywhere; and we should be willing thankfully, to own that 'He has made all things beautiful in their time,' if we were not a race f envious, selfish, ungrateful grumblers."

"Doctor! Doctor!" cried a ragged, dirty faced boy, running, breathless, into the yard. "What's the matter, my lad?" said the

our house. Father's tumbled off the hay cart; and when they got him up, he didn't know nothing; but they gin him some rum, and that kinder brought him to."

"No doubt, no doubt!" said the Doctor ising to go. " Similia similibus curantur. Noth ing like hair of the dog that bites you."

"The Doctor talks well," said the Skipper who had listened rather dubiously to his friend's commentaries on his story, "but he carries too much sail for me, sometimes, and I can't exactly keep alongside of him. I told Elder Staples, once, that I didn't see but that the Doctor could beat him at preaching. 'Very likely, says the Elder, says he; 'for you know, Skipper, I must stick to my text; but the Doctor's Bible is all creation.

## MR NORRIS AND THE HIGHER LAW

Some Whig newspapers are greatly exercis d by the following sentence in the recent en-

colleague, Mr. Atherton:

"He acknowledged no practical law higher or more sacred for his rule of conduct here than that sacred instrument which we are all sworn

They say it was a personal reflection upon the political ethics of Mr. Seward. We do not know what were Mr. Norris's intentions in pro-nouncing so admirable a sentiment; but sup-posing he did intend to reprove all men who entertain and avow such pestilent heresies,

The most malignant enemies of Mr. Ather ton could say nothing worse of him than this

"admirable" is in the same condemnation God; that Human Law, whatever it may be, is above the Law of Nature and of God; that the only standard of conduct for an American citizen is the will of a majority, as embodied in the form of Law or Constitution. Such miserable and impious nonsense scarcely deserves a word of comment.

## AMISTAD CLAIM.

History of the Case : Decision of the Judiciary Comity of the various Departments of Government; Construction of Treaties; Law of Nations ; Natural Rights of Persons ; Duty of All to Sustain the Doctrines on which our Government was Founded.

SPEECH OF MR. GIDDINGS,

DELIVERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, DE-CEMBER 21, 1853.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I rise to call the attention of this body and of the country to that portion of the President's Message which recommends to our favorable consideration the claims of cer-tain Cuban slave-dealers. They profess to have owned the people on board the schooner Amis-tad, who, by their own valor, regained their freedom in 1839. The President desires that we shall make the necessary appropriation to pay the slave merchants for the loss of their contemplated profits.

Mr. Bayly. The gentleman is correct, and

Mr. BAYLY. The gentleman is correct, and the Committee en Foreign Affairs will report a bill for that purpose.

Mr. Giddings, (resuming.) I thank the gentleman for this open avowal of the intentions of his committee. We may always look to slaveholders for a frank declaration of sentiments and intentions. It is only the doughfaces of the North who hide behind false issues, and here out of sight until kinds intentions. and keep out of sight until kicked into view.
[Laughter.]
The proposition of the President is important.
It involves the observance of our most solemn

treaty stipulations, which bind us to exert our influence to abolish the slave trade rather than to uphold and encourage it; it involves our na-tional honor and the welfare of our race.

Sir, as early as 1817 Spain took upon herself the most solemn obligations to abolish this slave trade. This obligation was contained in her treaty with Great Britain of that year.

In perfect good faith, the Crown of Spain, by its decretal order, issued soon after, declared the slave trade abolished throughout her dominions, including her Colonial possessions; and asserted the freedom of all Africans who should be thereafter imported into any of her National or Colonial ports. Our own Government had from its commencement expressed. ment had, from its commencement, expressed its abhorrence of that traffic. Soon after the adoption of our Constitution, Congress passed laws so far as authorized to modify its character, and, as soon as permitted by the Constitution, they prohibited it under severe penalties. Indeed, we have declared it piracy, and hang the Americans engaged in it, as unfit for hu-

By the 10th article of our treaty at Ghent we declared the slave trade to be "irreconcila-ble with the principles of humanity;" and we stipulated with Great Britain to exert our innce and power to eradicate from the earth rican coast, at an annual expense of from two to three millions of dollars, with the avowed in-tention to destroy forever this nefarious traffic. France, too, has long exerted her influence to attain this humane object; and the civilized nations of the earth stand pledged to the purication of our race from a traffic so abhorrent

while those four great Powers, which I have mentioned, were thus solemnly committed to this policy, while the Christian world held this slave trade in unutterable abborrence, cer-tain Cuban slave-dealers continued to violate the laws and treaties of their own Government the rights of human nature, and the laws of

God, by importing and enslaving the unoffending people of Africa.

In 1839 they imported a cargo of these inoffensive victims to Havana, in the island of Cuba. According to the proof exhibited before the Judicial Department of Government, they were seized in Africa, about the middle of April, by force carried on board the slave ship, and on the 12th June of that year they were landed in Havana and imprisoned in the barracoons of that city.

of that city.
On the 22d of that month, Don Pedro Mon tez obtained a license, or permit, from the Governor General, to transport three "Ladinoes," or legal slaves, from Havana to Principe, on the south side of the island; and on the 27th of the same month, José Ruiz obtained a similar pernit to transport forty-nine "Ladinoes," or legal slaves, to the same port. These permits were obtained, at all times, by paying the customary fee to the revenue. They were in themselves legal, giving liberty to transport only slaves; and the fraud consisted in transporting Africans who were free, under the permits to transport port slaves. The permits were conclusive evidence of the payment of the duty, as between the Government on the one side and Montez and Ruiz on the other. But these Africans were in no way parties to these permits, knew nothing of their being granted; and I need not say their rights could not be affected in any way by them. Every member will at once se they were in no respect admissible evidence against the negroes, who had been imported in fraud, and in violation of Spanish treaties and panish laws.
I mention these facts at this time for the rea-

son that, in all the litigation of this claim be-fore the courts, all the attorneys and agents who have advocated it rely solely upon these permits, not to show that the duties were act-ually paid, but to show that Montez and Ruiz at a subsequent day, shipped "Ladinoes," or legal slaves, under the authority of those permits. The attempt is to make these permits testimony of the subsequent conduct of Montez and Ruiz. And I apprehend the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs [Mr. Bayly] will be compelled to rely upon these permits, instead of showing us proof of the fact that these people had been actually held in Cuba as legal slaves. I bespeak his attention to this point. If they had been long resident in Cuba, I trust be will give us the proof. Let us have the depositions of those who owned them, for, if they had been owned there, some one must have owned them, and we want his evidence, or that of some person who knows the fact.

Now, I trust the gentleman will not follow the example of his predecessor, who gave us the certificate of some individual unknown to us, who states that Montez and Ruiz were konnen. I look upon such evasions as no compliment to the common sense of this body, or to that of the people, whose money they seek to apply in payment of this claim.

Montes and Ruiz are shown to have pur-

But, sir, I call the attention of this body to

chased these people with the full knowledge that they were Africans, newly imported, and, of course, free by the laws of Spain. Indeed, they could not be ignorant of that fact. These miserable victims, at the time Montez and Ruiz purchased them, could not utter a word of the Spanish language; their dialect, manner, and appearance, showed them to have recently come from the African coast. Such evidence no Cuban could misunderstand.

But to proceed with the statement of facts But to proceed with the statement of facts:
On the 28th of June, just sixteen days after
they had been imprisoned in the barracoons at
Havana, they were taken therefrom and shipped on board the "Amistad," which sailed for
Principe on the same day, with a crew composed of the captain, two sailors, and a cook.
Montez and Ruiz were also on board. ernment. He says, in distinct language, that "this claim is believed to rest on the obligations imposed by our existing treaties with that Government," while these courts say, in equally emphatic language, that there is no treaty which imposes such obligations upon us.

Here, sir, is an issue between the Executive and the Judicial department of Government, and the President appeals to the Legislative branch to sustain him. I do not think the history of the country furnishes a precedent for this state of things. The President takes the part of the slave dealers, the court stands by the Constitution, by the laws, and by the rights of humanity.

Montez and Ruiz were also on board.

On the 1st day of July, while sailing along the eastern coast of the island, the Africans rose and claimed their freedom. The captain and cook attempted to reduce them to subjection, and were slain; Montez and Ruiz, and the two sailors, surrendered the ship to the Africans. They immediately sent the sailors on shore in the boat, and retaining Montez and Ruiz on board, directed them to steer the ship for Africa. But, during the darkness of night, they directed their course northwardly, and on the 26th of August, being sixty days from the time of leaving Havana, they came to anchor time of leaving Havana, they came to anchor off the Connecticut coast, near the eastern shore of Long Island.

While the vessel was thus riding at anchor While the vessel was thus riding at anchor, Lieut. Gedney, of the ship Washington, engaged in the coast survey of the United States, took possession of her, and of the eargo and people ou board, and carried them into the port of New London.

Dates at this point will be found material,

before I close my remarks; and I ask the attention of the Committee particularly to the fact that on the 29th of August, 1839—being precisely two months and one day from the time of leaving the port of Havana—Montez and Ruiz filed their claim in the District Court of the United States described in the Postrict Court of the United States, demanding these Africans

as their slaves.
On the 19th September, 1839, the Africans filed their answers to the claim of Montez and Ruiz, setting forth the facts as I have related them, and denying that they were or ever had been slaves to Montez and Ruiz, or to any other person; but that they were and ever had been

Here I will remark that the Africans were strangers in a strange land, ignorant of any language save their native dialect, without One would have reasonably supposed that the sympathies of all men and all Government officers would have been enlisted in favor of these persecuted exiles, who had been thus torn from their bomes, their country, their kindred and friends. The dictates of our nature are in fa-vor of the oppressed, the friendless, of those who are incapable of defending their own Yet I feel humbled as an American, when I

say that the President sent orders to the Uni-ted States Attorney for the district of Connected States Attorney for the district of Connec-ticut, directing him to appear before the court, and in the name of the Spanish Minister to demand these Africans, in order that they may be delivered over to their pretended owners. This order was complied with; proofs were taken; the case was prepared by able counsel, who appeared for the slave dealers, and fully argued it before the District Court. A ship

The vote was taken, and I think there were not five voices heard in favor of the amendment. Members appeared astonished that such a claim should have been presented to an enlightened people. But the President says it has never been finally acted upon. Well, sir, I know of no way in which it can be finally acted upon, until the final day of all things shall come. Yet, I apprehend, the President was not aware that it had been rejected by this body, and that, too, by a vote which should forever have set the vertex transfer. was sent into the vicinity, where the court was be hurried on board and sent to Cuba to be garroted and gibbeted, without waiting for this fact as illustrative of the man

ner in which the Executive influence was wielded against these down-trodden strangers. It is due to those who come after us, that the truths be placed upon the record of our debates, in order that posterity may understand the views and feelings which guide statesmen

of the present age.

But, thanks to that Providence which gave us a Government of laws, instead of the will of a despot, to control the fate of freemen, the court, after the most patient hearing and consideration of the case, found the Africans have been imported in violation of the treaties and laws of Spain—that they were freemen, and not slaves to Montez and Ruiz, or to any

decision of an authorized tribunal would have satisfied the Executive; but an appeal was taken to the Circuit Court. The decree of the taken to the Circuit Court. The decree of the District Court, however, was reaffirmed in the District Court, however, was reaffirmed in the Circuit Court, and an appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of the United States. Here, sir, in this Capitol, the case was again argued, before the highest judicial tribunal of the nation. The Attorney General appeared on behalf of the slave-dealing pirates, and all the influence of his reputation, his official character, and of the Frenching Court windled in favor of the Executive, was again wielded in favor of this Spanish slave trade. The whole case was again argued and considered, and the decree of the District Court was again affirmed. But I can do no better here than to quote the words of the court, who, in making the decision, said:

"It is plain, beyond controversy, if we examine the evidence, that these negroes never were the lawful slaves of Ruiz or Montez, or of any other Spanish subjects. They are natives of Africa, and were kidnapped there, and were unlawfully transported to Cuba, in viola-tion of the laws and treaties of Spain, and the most solemn edicts and declarations of that Government. By these laws, and treaties, and ediets, the African slave trade is utterly abolished; the dealing in that trade is deemed a heinous crime; and the negroes thereby intro-duced into the dominions of Spain are declared to be free. Ruiz and Montez are proved to have made the pretended purchase of these negroes, with a full knowledge of all the circumstances. And so cogent and irresistible is the evidence in this respect, that the District Attorney has admitted in open court, upon the record, that these negroes were native Africans, and recently imported into Cuba, as alleged in their answers to the libels in the case." Now, sir, I ask the gentleman from Virginia

[Mr. Bayly.] when he reports his bill to reverse this decision, to show that these judges, learned in the law, did not understand the case; that they were ignorant of their duties; that they not comprehend the testimony.

When, sir, he attempts to reverse this solemn decision, I trust he will show the error on which he relies. If he denies that these Africans were point-I desire him to show the fact. I hope freemen-that the court were deceived on this e will make it plain to our comprehension.

If he denies this fact, I trust he will als

they had a perfect right, by the laws of Nature and of Nature's God, to their liberty. Yet, in opposition to these plain dictates of our judg-ment, and in defiance of that branch of Gov. show that the District Attorney, who admitted them to have been recently therefore free, and not slaves, misunderstood the facts—did not comprehend the proofs—was ignorant of his duties. I trust he will make these things plain, before he asks us to vote for nment which, by the Constitution, is authorized rized to give construction to our treaty stipula-tions, the President insists that we are obligated pay these slave dealers for the blood and s and sinews of those freemen.

as merchandise.

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W. W. BANCROFT, M. D.,
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And now Mr. Chairman the President who And now, Mr. Chairman, the President, who has never distinguished himself as a jurist to my knowledge, undertakes to assure us that it is a meritorious claim, notwithstanding all these decisions of a co-ordinate branch of Gov ernment. He says, in distinct language, that

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Dec. 22